REMARKS

Claims 1, 6, and 8 were rejected as anticipated by TAKAHASHI et al. 4,989,062. The claims have been amended and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Amended claim 1 provides that the plural power terminal patterns are oblique (neither perpendicular nor parallel) to the first, second, third and fourth power lines. This is illustrated by way of example in Figures 11 and 14. As seen therein, power terminal patterns 32 and 33 are oblique to the first, second, third and fourth power lines.

TAKAHASHI et al. do not disclose plural power terminal patterns that are oblique to the power lines. The power terminal patterns in TAKAHASHI et al. are perpendicular to the power lines, not oblique to the power lines.

The inventor has found that one of the advantages of using the oblique pattern is that when the oblique pattern is rotated 90° the power terminal patterns still traverse all the power lines. In contrast, TAKAHASHI et al. do not disclose this capability. When the perpendicular pattern is rotated 90°, the power terminal patterns do not correspond to the appropriate ones of the power lines. While the rotation of 90° noted above is not common, the inventor has found that this may occur during manufacture of the device due to an error in the process. By using the oblique extension of the power terminal patterns, the

connection of the power terminal patterns to the power lines is assured regardless of the error of 90°.

Claims 2, 3, 9-10, 13, 15-17, 20 and 22 were rejected as unpatentable over TAKAHASHI et al. in view of MIMOTO et al. 6,326,693. MIMOTO et al. also do not disclose the oblique alignment of the power terminal patterns and thus a combination would not make this feature obvious to one of skill in the art. Accordingly, it is believed that the amended claims avoid this rejection under §103.

Claims 4-5 and 7 were rejected as unpatentable over TAKAHASHI et al. in view of NODA et al. 5,095,352 and LI et al. 5,850,091. The additional references also do not disclose the oblique alignment of the power terminal patterns and thus a combination would also be missing this feature.

The Official Action points out that a particular shape of the power terminal patterns does not appear to produce any functional difference. However, as noted above, the oblique alignment allows the flexibility of recovering from errors in the manufacturing process wherein the power terminal patterns are misaligned by 90°. Indeed, this misalignment by 90° is not as uncommon as one may think in this process because masks are similar and can be confused.

Claims 11-12, 14, 18-19 and 21 were rejected as unpatentable over the same references, and are believed to be

allowable and the amended claims are believed to avoid these rejections for the reasons given above.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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